

## Make Separation Easier

When you place your child in child care, it may be the first time you and your child are separated on a regular basis.

To help you both feel more secure and at ease with the separation and the child care arrangement, here are a few suggestions:

- Visit the child care setting, whether it is a center or a family child care home, before you make a definite decision.
- Talk to your child about the home or center, the other children, the toys, the things they may do.
- Spend time with your child in the child care setting to ease the strangeness. Make separation as gradual as possible.
- Tell the adult in charge about any allergies, physical problems, or any special eating, napping, or toileting habits your child may have.

## Bring a Piece of Home

Children feel better about separation if they can bring a piece of home with them.

- A favorite blanket, teddy bear, doll or special toy can be comforting.
- A picture of mom or dad.
- A picture of a clock showing the time “I’ll be back for you.”
- Mom’s or dad’s work telephone number tucked into the child’s pocket and another copy given to the caregiver.

## Allow Time for Goodbyes

Allow plenty of time for “goodbyes” and “hellos”. It makes separating a little easier.

- Children need time to say “goodbye” and a chance to get involved in an activity at the child care setting before you leave.
- They also need time to say “goodbye” to their playmates and things when they leave the child care setting.
- Children need to know the days and times they will be taken to the child care arrangement and that they will be picked up on time.

All children react differently to separation, depending upon their ages and experiences. The older the child, usually the more she or he is able to remember and understand the words, “I’ll be back for you”.

You and the caregiver can work together to make separation a positive experience for your child. If your child can learn to trust that child care is not abandonment, but a pleasant, comfortable arrangement, then the next parting your child will face will be more understandable and easier to accept.



**To get  
information  
about regulated  
child care  
providers in your  
area, turn to the  
back page. . .**

For information about *licensed* child care... contact the Licensing Section in the region serving your county:

**NORTHEASTERN REGION**

200 North Jefferson, Suite 411  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
Gen: (920) 448-5312, Fax: (920) 448-5306  
[DCFPlcBRLNERO@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFPlcBRLNERO@wisconsin.gov)

*Counties:* Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Shawano, Sheboygan, Washington, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago

**NORTHERN REGION**

2187 N Stevens St. Suite C  
Rhinelander, WI 54501  
Gen: (715) 365-2500, Fax: (715) 365-2517  
[DCFPlcBRLNRO@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFPlcBRLNRO@wisconsin.gov)

*Counties:* Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Wood

**SOUTHERN REGION**

PO Box 8947  
Madison, WI 53708  
Gen: (608) 266-2900, Fax: (608) 261-7824  
[DCFPlcBRLSRO@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFPlcBRLSRO@wisconsin.gov)

*Counties:* Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, LaFayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Walworth

**WESTERN REGION**

610 Gibson Street, Suite 2  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Gen: (715) 836-2185, Fax: (715) 836-2516  
[DCFPlcBRLWRO@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFPlcBRLWRO@wisconsin.gov)

*Counties:* Barron, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Washburn

**SOUTHEASTERN REGION**

141 NW Barstow, Rm. 104  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
Gen: (262) 521-5100, Fax: (262) 521-5314  
[DCFPlcBRLSERO@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFPlcBRLSERO@wisconsin.gov)

*Counties:* Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha

For a list of *certifying* agencies:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/certification/pdf/certifiers.pdf>

or call 608-422-6027

Search all regulated child care at:

<http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov>



Division of Early Care and Education  
P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916



Resources for Libraries & Life Long Learning  
2109 S. Stoughton Rd  
Madison, WI 53716

To order additional copies of this brochure, contact the Child Care Information Center (CCIC) at 1-800-362-7353 or email us at [ccic@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:ccic@dpi.wi.gov).

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for you.”

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